Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace paragraph [020] with the following amended paragraph:

[020] Figure 2. The cDNA sequence of SEQ ID No. 1 comprised in a DNA molecule encoding an NADH dependent L-xylulose reductase as well as the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No.2 encoded by said cDNA. [DNA Sequence: SEQ ID NO:1; protein sequence: SEQ ID NO:2]

Replace paragraph [081] with the following amended paragraph:

[081] The *S. cerevisiae strain* H2651 was transformed with the cDNA library using the Gietz Lab Transformation Kit (Molecular Research Reagents Inc.). The transformants were plated on selective medium, lacking uracil, leucine and tryptophan, with 2% glucose as carbon source. After 2 days the plates were replicated on plates containing 1% L-arabinose as the carbon source. From the first colonies that appeared, plasmids were rescued and transformed to the *E. coli* strain DH5. The colonies that carried a plasmid from the library were identified by PCR with specific primers for the pEXP-AD502 vector f2: 5'-TATAACGCGTTTGGAATCACT-3' [SEQ ID NO:3] and r: 5'-TAAATTTCTGGCAAGGTAGAC-3' [SEQ ID NO:4]. Plasmids were extracted and sequenced with the same primers.

Replace paragraph [087] with the following amended paragraph:

[087] A histidine-tag containing 6 histidines was added to the N-terminus of the protein by amplifying the gene by PCR using the following primers,

5'-GACTGGATCCATCATGCATCATCATCATCATCATATGACTGACTACATTCCAAC-3' [SEQ ID NO:5] and 5'ATGCGGATCCCTATATATACCGGAAAATCGAC-3' [SEQ ID NO:6]. Both primers have *Bam*HI sites to facilitate cloning. The gene was cloned into the yeast multi-copy expression vector YEplac195 with *PGK1* promoter (Verho et al.: "Identification of the first fungal NADP-GAPDH from *Kluyvromyces lactis*" in *Biochemistry*, **41**, 2002, 13833-8). The resulting plasmid was named p2250. The gene was expressed in *S. cerevisiae* strain CEN.PK2 and the activity of the His-tagged protein was confirmed with enzyme activity measurements in a cell extract. For the purification of the protein the yeast strain expressing the histidine-tagged construct was grown overnight in 500 ml selective medium with 2% glucose and cells were collected. The cells were lysed with Y-PER reagent as described above and the lysate was applied into a NiNTA column (Qiagen).